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5-22-1993

Franco-Americans and the 1992 Elections [tables]

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French Historical Society Meeting
May 22, 1993
TABLE 1

FRENCH SURNAMES¹ IN SELECTED LEGISLATURES OF NEW ENGLAND
1990

State	Number of French Names	Percent of Legis- lature	Percent Population of French Ancestry ²	Ratio Fr. Home Speakers ³ to Total State Pop.
Maine ⁴	27-28 24D/4R	c.15	22.6	6.6
New Hampshire ⁵	52-57 27D-19R 6D-R 2R-D 3 Other	c.13	23.4	4.6
Vermont ⁶	12-13 7D/6R	c.7	23.7	3.1
Massachusetts ⁷	10-9 7D/1R 1D-R	c.6	10.9	2.1
Connecticut ⁸	3-5 4D/1R	c.2-3	8.0	1.6
Rhode Island ⁹	18 16D/2R	12	16.0	3.2

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1. Writer's evaluation of surnames is listed first. Second number generated by using French origin surname list from Cyprien Tanguay, Dictionnaire genealogique des familles canadienne depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'a nos jours. 7 vols. (Montreal: Eusebe Senecal & fils, 1871-1890). Also from Reginald L. Olivier, Your Ancient Canadian Family Ties. (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1972). Typescript: Franco Files, University of Southern Maine, c.1978.
 2. Persons first reporting ancestry as French or French-Canadian. 1990 Census of Population and Housing. Summary Tape File 3A.
 3. Persons age 5 and over reporting speaking French at home. 1990 Census of Housing and Population. Summary Tape File 3A.
 4. Maine Register, 1993-1994, pp.6-45.
 5. "Roster of the General Court, 1993-1994"
 6. "The 1993 Vermont Legislature" The Sunday Rutland Herald and the Sunday Times Argus. pp.8-10.
 7. The Boston Globe, November 5, 1992. p.38
 8. The Hartford Courant, November 5, 1992. PP.a18-20
 9. State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, "Elected Officials, 1993-1994."

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TABLE 2

Selected Median Democratic Percentages
of the Presidential Vote for
Thirty¹ Franco-American Communities

Year	Median percentage	Year	Median Percentage
1892	50	1932	63
1896	32	1936	67
1900	38	1940	65
1904	39	1944	67
1908	40	1948	66
1916	52	1952	56
1920	41	1956	49
1924	39	1960	71
1928	57		

Source: David B. Walker, "The Presidential Politics of the Franco-Americans," reprinted in A Franco-American Overview, Vol. 4, pp. 201-211.

TABLE 3

Democratic Percentages of the Presidential vote
in Two Democratic Cities, Lewiston and Biddeford, Maine

Year	Percentages	
	Lewiston	Biddeford
1952	66	73
1956	59	66
1960	83	86
1964	90	91
1968	86	

Source: Michael Guignard, The Franco-Americans: The Relationship between Ethnic Identification and Political Behavior. Honors Thesis, Bowdoin College, 1969.

TABLE 4

**Democratic Percentages of Lewiston
Republican-Democratic Vote for President**

Year	Percentage	Year	Percentage
1900	46	1936	79
1904	43	1940	81
1908	53	1944	80
1912	61	1948	77
1916	62	1952	66
1920	48	1956	59
1924	53	1960	83
1928	73	1964	90
1932	78	1968	86

Source: Ronald Bissonnette, 1977 A Study of Political Parties, Honors Thesis, University of Maine, Orono, Maine. quoted p.9 of William R. Vassar, "Voting Patterns of Franco-Americans in Lewiston, Maine," Senior Seminar in History. University of Maine.

TABLE 5

Democratic Percentage of Presidential vote in Lewiston

Year	Percentages	
	Lewiston	VI-1
1972	62	76
1976	71	85
1980	58	74

Source: William R. Vassar, pp. 10,12,14. "Voting Patterns of Franco-Americans in Lewiston, Maine," Senior Seminar in History, University of Maine.

TABLE 6

Democratic Percentage of Presidential vote in Lewiston

Year	Lewiston	VI-1
1984	50	72
1988	56	65
1992*	47	54
*Perot	31	30

Source: Lewiston Journal, Nov. 7, 1984, Nov. 9, 1988.
Sun-Journal, Lewiston, Maine. Nov. 5, 1992.

TABLE 7

FOUR FRANCO-AMERICAN CITIES

CITY	FIRST ANCESTRY FRENCH & FRENCH- CANADIAN	FRENCH HOME SPEAKERS age 5 plus	Ratio col.2/ col.1
	(1) Number	(2) Number	
Lewiston	22,756	12,587	.55
Manchester	34,326	10,962	.32
Worcester	25,130	2,907	.12
Woonsocket	24,177	8,614	.36

Source: 1990 Census of Housing and Population, Summary Tape
File 3A.

TABLE 8

CITY	TOT.POP. Number	PERCENT FR. ANC.	RATIO FR.SP./ TOT.POP.
Lewiston	39,757	57	.32
Manchester	99,587	34	.11
Worcester	169,753	15	.02
Woonsocket	43,877	55	.20

Source: 1990 Census of Housing and Population, Summary Tape
File 3A.